

Client: Utah
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UTAH
LIFE ELEVATED

Q&A CLASSIC QUESTION

I want to **take the family** on a **road trip in the USA** this summer, and need a possible itinerary for a **two-week holiday**. What **regions do you suggest**, and do you have any **advice on car hire**?

PETER HALL

The best road trips tell stories, and the old Wild West (South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana) is full of them. From Rapid City, drive a loop via Wall and The Badlands into the beautiful Black Hills. See the world's largest T-Rex at Hill City, take in Mount Rushmore and marvel at Crazy Horse Monument, the jaw-dropping Native American response. Avoid Sturgis in August (when it attracts 500,000 bikers) but don't miss Deadwood and make time for a 'Close Encounter' with the sacred Bear Butte. Marvel at the Devil's Overlook at Bighorn Canyon and shed a tear at the Little Bighorn battlefield. Cody, Buffalo Bill's town on the edge of Yellowstone National Park, is a jolly place to finish your trip, with rodeos and restaurants that serve fresh vegetables. For more information see www.blackhillsbadlands.com. This itinerary is about 1,000 miles in all; fly direct from the UK to Minneapolis/St Paul (adding 400 miles), or take a domestic flight to Rapid City from Boston or Newark.

LUCIE YOUNG

My suggestion would be a trip around 'the Grand Circle' (www.grandcircle.org), an area of northern Arizona and southern **Utah** that contains several natural treasures (and was recently

featured in the Danny Boyle movie *127 Hours*). Sights not to miss include the Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Monument Valley (in the middle of the Navajo nation, and a great place to learn about 2,000 years of Native American culture), Bryce Canyon and Zion Canyon. All these awe-inspiring places are an easy day's drive from each other through spectacular scenery. Best of all, the USA's national parks have reasonably priced family-friendly lodges (www.nationalparkreservations.com). Fly into Las Vegas (a six-hour drive to the Grand Canyon) and enjoy a day or two of shopping, eating and glitzy entertainment. Or fly to Phoenix, Arizona (British Airways goes direct). From there it is a four-and-a-half-hour drive to the Grand Canyon and a more scenic route up through the Sonoran desert.

JOANNA SYMONS

My choice would be New England. Start in Boston and head south to Cape Cod, about two hours away. On

the Cape, take Route 6 through classic New England towns of white clapboard houses, then head south to Chatham, an attractive, preppy small town. Spend a few days here, and take a ferry to Nantucket Island or Martha's Vineyard. Next, dip down into Rhode Island, and the seaside resort of Newport, with its

lovely harbour, Gatsby-style mansions and more sweeping beaches. Then go north, through Providence, Rhode Island, one of the oldest cities in the USA with some great shops and galleries – and back up into Massachusetts. Drive west to Sturbridge and Old Sturbridge Village, a really good outdoor-history museum, and on to Springfield, home of the Dr Seuss sculpture garden. Continue east into the Berkshire mountains, for cycling, canoeing and hiking in magnificent scenery (see www.berkshires.org for more information), then wind back to the coast through the peaceful byways of north Massachusetts, with a final night by the sea at Rockport, Salem or Marblehead, before returning to Boston. See www.discovernewengland.org for several other suggested driving itineraries, and general travel information; also visit www.visitnewengland.com.

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NICK TREND

Those seem like three highly enjoyable itineraries, but to pick up on the last part of your question, I thought I'd add some advice on car hire. It is certainly worth comparing prices offered by agents, such as Trailfinders (www.trailfinders.com) and Travelbag (www.travelbag.co.uk), which will give you a combined price for flights and car hire, and may even suggest accommodation for an itinerary that suits you. But always check exactly what is included in the price and what is payable – especially relating to insurance – on collecting the car. Check price-comparison websites such as www.carrentals.co.uk, www.carhiresearch.co.uk or www.travelsupermarket.com to make sure you are getting

a good deal. You might consider renting a motorhome (known as an RV in the USA), which will save you having to book accommodation, although you may want to book your pitches in campsites. One of the best brokers for RVs is Motorhome Bookers (www.motorhomebookers.com).



TRAVELLER TOP TIP

MORE IDEAS FOR CLASSIC ROAD TRIPS AROUND THE USA CAN BE FOUND FROM NORTH AMERICAN HIGHWAYS (WWW.NORTHAMERICANHIGHWAYS.CO.UK), WHICH CAN ALSO ARRANGE FLY-DRIVE HOLIDAYS

OUR EXPERTS THIS MONTH



PETER HALL is a freelance motoring journalist with two decades of driving experience on five continents; previously motoring editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, he now edits the *AA Magazine*.



LUCIE YOUNG is a New York-based writer and regular contributor to *House and Garden*.



JOANNA SYMONS has written travel features for national newspapers for many years and she is currently a commissioning editor on the *Daily Telegraph*.

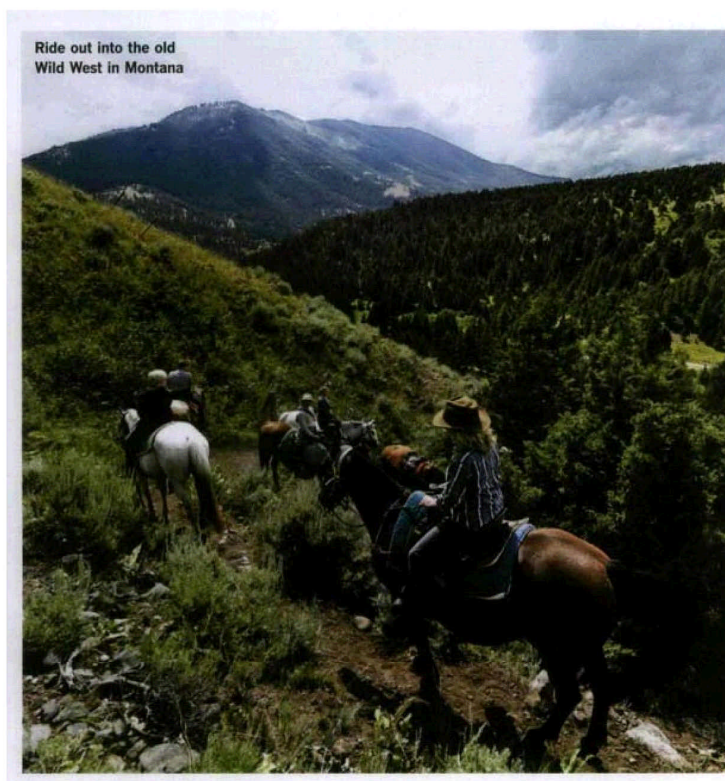


NICK TREND specialises in consumer advice for travellers. He writes regularly for the *Daily Telegraph*, and edits the Experts and Q&A pages of *Condé Nast Traveller*.



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